

**“Taken from House Conference Report 104-378
FY 1996 House Report...”**

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY

SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL RESEARCH AND SERVICES

The conference agreement includes \$259,000,000 for the internal (core) research account of the National Institute of Standards and Technology instead of \$263,000,000 as proposed by the House and \$222,737,000 as proposed by the Senate.

The conferees concur with the House and Senate position that the Malcolm Baldrige Quality Program be funded under this account. The conferees expect the remaining funds provided to be distributed proportionately to the activities delineated in the House report.

The conference agreement deletes language proposed by the Senate which would have earmarked \$1,200,000 within the amount provided under this account for continuation of the 'green buildings' program. The House bill contained no similar provision.

INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

The conference agreement includes \$80,000,000 for the NIST external research account instead of \$81,100,000 as proposed by the House and \$101,600,000 as proposed by the Senate. The conferees have provided this amount to fund only the Manufacturing Extension Partnership Program as proposed by the House. The Senate bill would have allowed up to \$25,300,000 to be used to support continuation grants for prior year Advanced Technology Program awards.

The conferees have provided \$80,000,000 for the Manufacturing Extension Partnership Program instead of \$81,100,000 as proposed by the House and \$76,300,000 as proposed by the Senate. The conferees intend that these funds be applied in accordance with the direction given in the House report.

The conference agreement retains language included in both the House and Senate bills directing that no additional grants be awarded with carryover

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funds under the Advanced Technology Program, and that any remaining unobligated balances be used to fund continuation costs of ATP grants awarded in prior fiscal years.

CONSTRUCTION OF RESEARCH FACILITIES

The conference agreement includes \$60,000,000 for the NIST Construction account as proposed by the House instead of \$27,000,000 as proposed by the Senate. The conferees have included the House language allowing these funds to be used for both construction of new facilities and renovation of existing facilities rather than the Senate language which would have limited use of the funds to renovation of existing facilities only.

The conference agreement also includes, in a later section, the rescission of \$75,000,000 of prior year carryover amounts from this account. The result of the conference action will allow NIST to obligate \$79,000,000 under this account for fiscal year 1996. The conferees intend that these funds be used for the purpose of proceeding with the construction of a new Chemistry building at the NIST Gaithersburg campus, with the remaining \$9,000,000 to be applied to routine maintenance and repair of structures at both the Gaithersburg and Boulder campuses. The conferees are also concerned about the obligation of more than \$50,000,000 from this account late in fiscal year 1995, and expect NIST to submit no later than January 15, 1996, a full accounting of funds obligated under this account during fiscal year 1995. The conferees are particularly concerned about the obligation of \$22,150,000 of funds against an existing contract for 'conservative estimates'. The conferees expect NIST to submit a reprogramming of funds in accordance with section 605 of this Act for any amounts subsequently deobligated under any NIST construction contract.